

**Fact Sheet  
MAY 2003**

# **BP Carson Refinery East & West Basins Draft Post-Closure Permit Fact Sheet**



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC  
SUBSTANCES CONTROL

## *Public Comment Period and Public Hearing Request*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public review and comment on the Draft Post-Closure Permit for the BP Carson Refinery, East and West Basins. The refinery is located at 1801 East Sepulveda Boulevard in Carson, California. The basins are located within the refinery grounds. Previous owners of the refinery operated the basins to manage a mix of storm water and process water during large rainfall events. This mixed water was considered hazardous due to the presence of small concentrations of benzene, a carcinogenic (cancer causing) chemical. The basins were closed and decontaminated in 1997. Because prior owners of the refinery could not prove that the basins had not leaked, a post-closure permit is required. The proposed post-closure permit establishes how the basins will be maintained and monitored for the next 30 years. The proposed post-closure permit also authorizes the emergency use of the basins for non-hazardous water storage during periods of extreme flooding or for storing residual firefighting water during a fire emergency, and the water must be tested to make sure it is non-hazardous prior to discharge.

### **FACILITY DESCRIPTION**

BP West Coast Products LLC (BP) owns and operates the refinery on which the East and West basins are located. The refinery is divided into five separate geographical areas: the Main Refinery, the North Property, the Northeast Property, the Southeast Property, and the Southwest Property. The

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST**

The public comment period begins May 30, 2003 and ends July 14, 2003. Emailed public comments should be sent to [ffontus@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ffontus@dtsc.ca.gov) and received no later than July 14, 2003. All written comments must be postmarked by July 14, 2003 and mailed to:

Fred Fontus, Project Manager  
Department of Toxic Substances  
Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826-3200  
[ffontus@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ffontus@dtsc.ca.gov)

DTSC is not conducting a public hearing on the Draft Post-Closure Permit. However, interested parties can request a public hearing. Public hearing requests must state the reasons for the public hearing and the issues or concerns that would be aired at the public hearing. Public hearing requests must be sent to Fred Fontus at the address above and be received by the close of the public comment period. To view a copy of the Draft Post Closure Permit or get more information about DTSC, visit the DTSC website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).

*DTSC is one of six  
Boards and  
Departments within  
the California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency.  
The Department's  
mission is to restore,  
protect and enhance  
the environment,  
to ensure public health,  
environmental  
quality and  
economic vitality,  
by regulating  
hazardous waste,  
conducting and  
overseeing  
cleanups, and  
developing  
and promoting  
pollution prevention.*

State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



refinery is approximately 702 acres and is bounded by Sepulveda Boulevard, Wilmington Avenue, Alameda Street and the Dominguez Channel. The refinery is in a predominantly industrial area and is surrounded by a variety of manufacturing and petroleum-refining and storage facilities. Only the southwestern edge of the refinery is adjacent to a residential neighborhood. Another residential neighborhood is located more than 1,000 feet northwest of the refinery on the other side of the San Diego Freeway. These residential areas are 0.5 to 1 mile from the East and West basins.

Petroleum refining operations have been conducted at the site since 1923 when the Pan American Petroleum Company began operations. In 1926, Richfield Oil Company purchased the property and expanded the refining operations. The Atlantic and Richfield Companies merged in 1967, forming the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO). In 2002, BP became the new owner of the refinery. The refinery currently has capacity to process approximately 260,000 barrels of crude oil per day to make gasoline, jet fuel, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas, sulfur, and petroleum coke.

## **DESCRIPTION OF BASINS**

The East and West basins were constructed in 1969 and are located within the main refinery area which includes refining facilities, a power plant, the majority of the refinery's product shipping facilities and a product storage area. The East and West basins are surface impoundments, which are artificial ponds containing waste water, constructed of gunite sprayed over steel mesh. The surface of each basin is sealed with a polyurethane coating that acts as a liner. Surface dimension of the East Basin is approximately 210 feet by 200 feet, averages about 24 feet deep and has a capacity of about 3.7 million gallons. Surface dimension of the West Basin is approximately 269 feet by 300 feet, is nearly 22 feet deep, with a capacity of 10.8

million gallons. Each basin is equipped with pumping facilities to allow transfer and removal of stored liquids. Underneath the basins, monitoring wells function as a groundwater monitoring system.

## **REGULATORY STATUS**

In 1990, both basins became regulated due to a new Federal rule. The rule allowed the basins to operate under interim authority from 1990 to 1994. The basins were inactive from 1994 to 1996. An approved Closure Plan for the basins was implemented between August 1996 and March 1997. In December 1997, DTSC certified closure of the two basins. Closure procedures included the following:

- Decontamination – Achieved by a two step cleaning process. First, basin walls and associated pumps were rinsed with low pressure fire water. Second, basin surfaces were scrubbed using a liquid detergent solution with high pressure water.
- Crack Repair – Two types of cracks in the basin liners were repaired. Cracks subject to movement (expansion and contraction) were repaired using a silicon adhesive caulking. Minor cracks were repaired using a cement-based grout.
- Sealant Application – After decontamination and confirmation of cleanliness, the basins were coated with a layer of polyurethane.

## **POST CLOSURE OVERVIEW**

DTSC determined the presence of hydrocarbon-impacted soil and groundwater at depth below the basins could not be proven to be the result of other sources. As a result, DTSC is requiring the refinery to provide post-closure care for the two closed basins over a 30-year period. The regulatory requirements of a post-closure plan focus on three primary functions:

- 1) Maintenance of closure structures;
- 2) Environmental monitoring; and
- 3) Maintenance of financial mechanisms to fund post-closure activities.

The above requirements are implemented through a post-closure permit. The Draft Post-Closure Permit will include procedures to perform the following tasks: (a) maintenance of the basin liners and pumps by regular inspection and corrective action; (b) environmental monitoring, consisting of implementation of the revised RCRA Basin Corrective Action Groundwater Monitoring Plan; and (c) provision for financial mechanisms to fund post-closure activities throughout the 30 year post-closure period.

## **FUTURE USE**

BP plans to occasionally use the two basins to store limited non-hazardous water on a temporary basis. The basins will be used for the temporary storage of firefighting testing water and the temporary storage of non-hazardous storm water and process water overflow when large storms occur. Once fire system testing is concluded or storm conditions subside, BP must pump all water from the basins to the Los Angeles County Sanitation District wastewater treatment facility according to the requirements of its discharge permit.

## **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has reviewed the proposed post-closure activities and determined they will not have any potential for an adverse effect on public health and the environment. Therefore, DTSC has exempted this project from CEQA requirements and prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE). The NOE document which lists the specific reasons of why the project is exempt is part of the administrative record for this project. A

copy is located at the Information Repositories listed in this fact sheet.

## **RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

Before making a final permit determination, DTSC will review and respond to all public comments. A copy of the Response to Comments document will be placed in the Information Repositories listed in this fact sheet. The final permit determination will be public noticed in the Daily Breeze newspaper. A copy of this public notice will be mailed to the BP Carson Refinery project mailing list.

## **INFORMATION REPOSITORIES**

The Draft Post-Closure Permit and other site related documents are available for public review at the Information Repositories listed below. The entire administrative record is available for public review at the DTSC office at 8800 Cal Center Drive. The administrative record includes copies of the post-closure permit application, closure and post-closure plans, the CEQA Notice of Exemption, fact sheets and other site specific documents.

Information Repositories are located at:

Carson Public Library  
151 E. Carson Street  
Carson, California 90745  
(310) 830-0901

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
Contact: Jennifer Thomas at  
(916) 255-3560 for an appointment.

## **INFORMATION CONTACTS**

If you have any questions or would like additional information on the BP project please contact either:

Fred Fontus, Project Manager  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826-3200  
(916) 255-3611  
[ffontus@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ffontus@dtsc.ca.gov)

Stacey Lear  
Public Participation Specialist  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, California 90630  
(714) 484-5354  
[slear@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:slear@dtsc.ca.gov)

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

If you are a member of the media and would like additional information, please contact Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer, at (818) 551-2176.

## **HEARING IMPAIRED**

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Fred Fontus at (916) 255-3611 or Stacey Lear at (714) 484-5354 regarding the BP Carson Refinery, East and West Retention Basins, Draft Post-Closure Permit.

### Public Comment and Mailing List Coupon

If you wish to ask questions or comment on the Draft Post-Closure Permit and CEQA Notice of Exemption, please write in the space provided below or on a separate sheet of paper, postmark it no later than July 14, 2003 and mail it to Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, California, 90630. If you did not receive a copy of this fact sheet in the mail and would like to be put on the BP Carson Refinery, East and West Retention Basins, Draft Post-Closure Permit mailing list, please take a moment to fill out the information below and mail it to Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist at the above address.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of Department of Toxic Substances Control activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records, and if requested, may be subject to release.